

United States History: Reconstruction to Present Day

Unit 1: Union in Peril, Union Restored: The Civil War and Reconstruction

Investigative Question: How did the Civil War and Reconstruction resolve conflicts while creating new struggles for equality and national identity?

1. Overview of the Civil War
 2. Reconstruction and Plans to Reunite the Country
 3. Radical Reconstruction
 4. The Reconstruction Amendments
 5. Successes and Failures of Reconstruction
 6. The End of Reconstruction and Its Legacy
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Unit 2: The Gilded Age

Investigative Question: How did industrialization, urbanization, immigration, and expansion bring changes to American society?

1. Pull of the West
 2. Key Inventions and Their Impact on Life in the United States
 3. Immigration and Urbanization
 4. The Pros and Cons of Big Business
 5. Native American Policies
 6. Political Machines and Efforts at Reform
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Unit 3: Age of Expansion

Investigative Question: How did the United States become an international power?

1. Expansion
2. Spanish-American War
3. Open Door Policy

4. Debates over Imperialism and Annexation of the Philippines
 5. Building the Panama Canal
 6. Foreign Policy: Might, Money, and Morals
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Unit 4: Age of Reform

Investigative Question: To what extent did the Progressive Era solve the problems caused by rapid growth in cities and industrialization? What groups benefitted? Who groups were left out?

1. Populism and the Election of 1896
 2. Muckrakers and Reform Leaders
 3. The Rise of Jim Crow and Calls for Reform
 4. Progressive Era Reforms
 5. Teddy Roosevelt in the White House
 6. Taft and Wilson
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Unit 5: America in World War I

Investigative Question: How was the United States forever changed economically, socially, and politically from participating in World War I?

1. From Neutrality to War
2. Fighting the War
3. On the Home Front
4. The Great Migration
5. Ending WWI
6. The Treaty of Versailles

Unit 6: The Roaring Twenties

Investigative Question: How did the social, cultural, and economic changes of the 1920s redefine American identity while also exposing deep divisions in society?

1. Returning Home
 2. The Red Scare
 3. A Booming Economy
 4. New Opportunities for Women
 5. The Jazz Age
 6. Harlem Renaissance
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Unit 7: The 1930s

Investigative Question: Why was the Great Depression so “great” and what made the New Deal a turning point in U.S. history?

1. Causes of the Great Depression
 2. Life During the Great Depression
 3. Surviving the Dust Bowl
 4. The New Deal
 5. Legacy of the New Deal
 6. The Road to War
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Unit 8: World War II

Investigative Question: How did World War II transform the United States and reshape the world?

1. The United States Enters World War II
2. Fighting World War II
3. The Home Front
4. The Holocaust

5. The End of World War II
 6. Legacy of World War II
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Unit 9: The Cold War

Investigative Question: How did the Cold War shape American society and U.S. foreign policy?

1. Origins of the Cold War
 2. Containment and the Korean War
 3. The Red Scare Returns
 4. The Space Race
 5. The Vietnam War
 6. The End of the Cold War
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Unit 10: Civil Rights and Social Change

Investigative Question: How did individuals and movements expand civil rights and reshape American society?

1. Segregation and the Early Civil Rights Movement
 2. The Civil Rights Movement
 3. Expanding Rights
 4. Social and Cultural Change
 5. The Great Society
 6. Lasting Impact of the Civil Rights Movement
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Unit 11: Modern America

Investigative Question: How have political, economic, technological, and social changes shaped modern America?

1. Conservatism and the Reagan Era
 2. The End of the Cold War and a Changing World
 3. September 11 and the War on Terror
 4. Technology and Globalization
 5. Challenges and Opportunities in the 21st Century
 6. Contemporary America
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Unit 12: Cross-Chronological Connection

Investigative Question: How have past events informed our understanding of current issues in the United States?

1. Topic Identification
2. Framing of the Question
3. Exploration of Sources
4. Organization of Sources
5. Product Creation
6. Authentic Exhibition of Learning